Activity Experience

During my Practicum at Mt. Blue High School in the Spring of 2012 I taught a lesson called *Culture in China*. I loved designing and teaching this lesson because it completely encapsulated my teaching philosophy. When starting a lesson I want my students to be prepared and looking for key components in the lesson. I do this by giving an overview with highlights and through the use of graphic organizers. For the lesson on culture in China I used a short interactive slideshow to present all the topics and ideas. Then I had four activity centers where students could apply their learning. The activity centers included crafts, hands-on activities, and even gardening. That was where my philosophy really shined. I think application is very important for learners, and being able to experiment and apply their learning is crucial. Students had choice in their activities, and I also created online simulations and games so that students who needed technology to learn could get the same experience if they needed that option. Those students were used to doing worksheets every day. They were not challenged and so they acted out. The reactions I got from the students from the activity centers was amazing. I had never seen them excited about learning before or asking questions before. In this lesson students took charge of their own learning, and it was amazing. My goal is for every day in my classroom to be like that.